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Late Backup CM Houston

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JEFFREY TRAVILLION SR.

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

Office: 512-854-9111

Fax: 512-854-4897

Email: Jeffrey.Travillion@traviscountytx.gov



700 Lavaca St. Ste 2.200

Austin, Texas 78701

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1748

Austin, Texas 78767

October 31, 2018

The Honorable Steve Adler
Mayor, City of Austin
301 West 2nd Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mayor Adler:


I am writing in support of the proposed resolution, sponsored by Councilmember Ora Houston, to convey ownership of the property located at the Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park (the "Park"). The conveyance would be from the City of Austin (the "City") to Travis County (the "County"). I believe that such a conveyance would benefit the public interest of residents in Travis County and the City of Austin.

The City currently leases 128 acres to the County, but the term of the lease expires in 2033. In leasing the property, the County built the Travis County Exposition Center (the "Center"). The various events held at the Center generate only sales tax revenues for the City. Travis County would like to explore a larger array of revenue generating initiatives which should be mutually beneficial for the City and the County, including:

- facilitating the formation of a public/private collaboration to improve the facilities at the site;
- developing the site would attract more transit opportunities for an area that has inadequate access to public transportation;
- opening the area park system up to opportunities for higher use;
- conveying the property would generate proceeds that could be used to make the area a regional entertainment and recreation venue.

We recognize that state law and the City's Charter allow for the sale of parkland only if approved by the voters. County staff is available to work with the City to develop ballot language and address all issues concerning a citizen vote on the proposal. We look forward to the opportunity of working with City Council and staff to provide the best use for the property at the Travis County Exposition Center.

Best regards,


Jeffrey W. Travillion, Sr.
Commissioner, Precinct 1
Travis County, Texas